

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06480 161848Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

NSCE-00 OC-06 PRS-01 RSC-01 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00

SY-10 FAA-00 EUR-25 VOE-00 PA-03 RSR-01 NEAE-00

INRE-00 /136 W

----- 105103

O 161803Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9442

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

USINT CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY NIACT IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6480

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS IS

SUBJ: HIJACKED AIRCRAFT AT LOD

1. EMBOFF WHO WAS AT AIRPORT DURING HIJACKING EPISODE VISITED HIJACKED MEA 707 AND INTERVIEWED NORWIEGEN FLIGHT ENGINEER WHO MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. AIRCRAFT WITH 116 PASSENGERS ABOARD ENROUTE TO BEIRUT FROM BENGHAZI, NEAR NICOSIA PASSENGER LEFT HIS SEAT, MADE WAY TO COCKPIT, PRODUCED TWO PISTOLS AND DEMANDED AIRCRAFT BE DIVERTED TO TEL AVIV. HIJACKER HAD BAG IN HIS POSSESSION WHICH HE CLAIMED HAD HIGH EXPLOSIVES. HE THREATENED TO DESTROY AIRCRAFT UNLESS IT LANDED TEL AVIV.

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B. AS PLANE NEARED ISRAELI AIRSPACE IT WAS INTERCEPTED BY ISRAELI

AIRFORCE PLANES WHICH ESCORTED IT TO LOD. AFTER HOLDING FOR 10 MINUTES ABOVE AIRPORT AIRCRAFT ALLOWED TO LAND. DURING THIS PERIOD HIJACKER VERY NERVOUS AND AGAIN THREATENED TO DESTROY PLANE UNLESS ALLOWED TO LAND. AFTER LANDING HIJACKER FIRED ONE SHOT IN PASSENGER COMPARTMENT. NO ONE WAS HURT.

C. AFTER LANDING, PLANE WAS CORDONED OFF, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ALLOWED TO GET OFF AND HIJACKER DEMANDED TO TALK TO ISRAELI OFFICIALS TO WHOM HE SURRENDERED. ONLY INJURY SUSTAINED WAS PASSENGER WHO APPARENTLY HURT ANKLE GETTING OFF PLANE.

D. HIJACKER SPOKE ENGLISH THROUGHOUT DID NOT APPEAR UNDERSTAND ARABIC WHEN QUESTIONED BY LEBANESE CREW MEMBER. HE MAY HAVE BEEN INTOXICATED.

E. FLIGHT ENGINEER UNAWARE OF MOTIVATION BEHIND HIJACKING, NOR WAS WAS HE AWARE OF ANY DEMANDS MADE BY HIJACKER OTHER THAN DEMANDING LAND IN TEL AVIV.

2. DEFMIN DAYAN, TRANSMIN PERES AND IDF CHIEF OF STAFF ELAZAR AT AIRPORT AND SUPERVISED GOI REACTION TO INCIDENT.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT ELAZAR HAS ANNOUNCED TO PRESS THAT HIJACKER HAD LIBYAN PASSPORT.

3. EMBOFF CHECKED PASSENGER MANIFEST AND IT SEEMES THAT NO RPT NO AMCITS ON BOARD. THIS IMPRESSION CONFIRMED TO DATT BY IDF.
AIRCRAFT LIKELY TO DEPART FOR BEIRUT LATER THIS EVENING.

VELIOTES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINS, IS, MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES
To: STATE
Type: TE
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